

Employers’ Responses to the Open-Ended Question:  
“In trying to fill this position, what is the greatest difficulty you have faced, if any?”

DIFFICULTY	NUMBER OF RESPONSES	PERCENT OF RESPONSES
Some aspect of the job is undesirable to applicants (such as shifts, weekends, nights, schedule changes, heavy lifting, etc.)	27	17.31%
We have been unable to find applicants with the specific experience, training, skills and/or certification that we are seeking.	23	14.74%
Finding people that want to work. Not enough applications submitted.	18	11.54%
Some other difficulty mentioned.	17	10.90%
No reported difficulty in filling vacancy.	17	10.90%
We have been unable to find qualified applicants and/or applicants with experience.	16	10.26%
Finding people to pass a drug test or background check (such as driving record or credit check).	12	7.69%
Qualified applicants will not work for the compensation package we offer.	9	5.77%
The work ethic of people, once they are hired, is unacceptable. This included comments on social skills, appearance, attitude, maturity, and dependability.	7	4.49%
There is a shortage of people in the occupation.	6	3.85%
Turnover- keeping people once they have been hired is the biggest problem.	4	2.56%
Total Responding to the Open-Ended Question	156	100.00%

These answers are not necessarily verbatim responses, but a compilation of similar responses.

What is the difference between industry group and occupational group?

An industry is a group of establishments, categorized according to the goods or services they provide. For purposes of this study, many of the industry sectors are grouped together to provide summary information. For instance, the industry sectors of Wholesale Trade, Retail Trade, Transportation and Warehousing, and Utilities are combined to form a summary industry group called Trade, Transportation & Utilities.

An occupational group is a group of workers, categorized according to the skills they have and what they do on the job. For example, Healthcare Practitioner and Technical Occupations is one occupational group that includes many different types of occupations such as Dentists, Optometrists, Therapists, Veterinarians, Diagnostic related Technologists and Technicians, and Medical Records and Health Information Technicians. These are just a few of the occupations you can find in this occupational group.

Each industry contains a variety of occupations, and many occupations may be found in every industry. Using Healthcare Services (part of the summary industry group of Education & Health Services) as an example, you may find the following occupations in a hospital: doctors, therapists, office managers, medical records clerks, housekeepers, nurses, food preparation workers, and maintenance workers.

Methodology

During the second quarter 2005, a Job Vacancy Survey was conducted based on a random sample of Louisiana establishments covered by Louisiana’s unemployment insurance tax laws. The sample was stratified by firm size, regional labor market area, and industry. The total sample size was 8,544 with an overall response rate of 56%. This survey was conducted prior to Hurricane Katrina. The Second Quarter 2005 Job Vacancy Survey reports for the state and eight regional labor market areas (RLMAs) can be found on the LDOL Web site: [www.LAWORKS.net/qm\\_JVS.asp](http://www.LAWORKS.net/qm_JVS.asp)

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LAKE CHARLES REGIONAL JOB VACANCY SURVEY  
SECOND QUARTER 2005



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR \* [WWW.LAWORKS.NET](http://www.LAWORKS.NET)

**THE PURPOSE OF A JOB VACANCY SURVEY** is to identify the number and types of jobs available in specific industries and regions of the state. The results of the survey assist educational units, employment and training providers, and local workforce councils in responding to industry needs. The Job Vacancy Survey data provides a unique snapshot of the conditions in a given region and/or occupational labor market.

There were 3,658 job vacancies in Regional Labor Market Area 5 (Lake Charles Region) during the 2nd quarter of 2005 resulting in a vacancy rate of 3.40 percent. This means that for every 100 jobs, approximately 3 1/2 jobs were vacant at the time of the survey. The largest number of job vacancies (721) was found in the occupational group of Food Preparation and Serving-Related Occupations while the largest vacancy rate was in Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations at 13.55 percent.

In the table below, Lake Charles Regional Job Vacancies by Industry Group, Leisure and Hospitality had the largest number of job vacancies (1,054) while the highest vacancy rate was in Other Services (13.6 percent). Other Services consist of repair and maintenance, personal and laundry

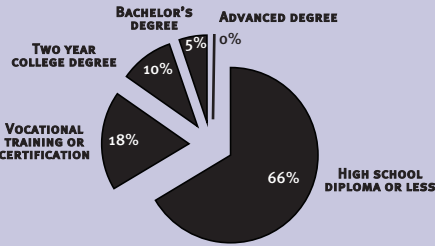
services, membership associations and organizations, and private household.

In the Lake Charles area, 55 percent of the job vacancies required job experience while 45 percent had job vacancies that required no experience. Approximately one-third of the jobs required training past high school and 66 percent required a high school diploma or less. The largest percentage of job vacancies (30 percent) paid \$5.15 to \$7.00 per hour. The second highest percentage of job vacancies (26 percent) paid \$7.01 to \$10.00 per hour.

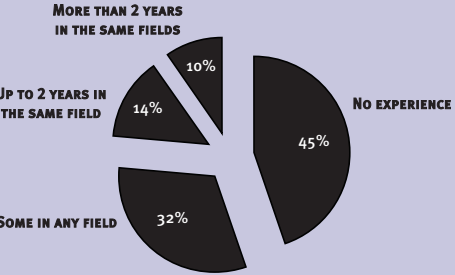
This survey included all ownership classifications, private ownership, federal, state, and local government. Of those responding with job vacancies, 84 percent were classified as private and 16 percent were classified as government statewide.

A list of difficulties that employers had in filling the positions can be found on the back page. The difficulty reported most often concerned some aspect of the job being undesirable to the applicant. Shifts, weekends, nights, schedule changes, heavy lifting were some of the undesirable aspects listed by the employers.

LAKE CHARLES REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF JOB VACANCIES



LAKE CHARLES REGIONAL JOB EXPERIENCE OF JOB VACANCIES



LAKE CHARLES REGIONAL JOB VACANCIES BY INDUSTRY GROUP

INDUSTRY GROUP	NUMBER OF VACANCIES	INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT*	VACANCY RATE	MEDIAN HOURLY WAGE
Leisure & Hospitality	1,054	18,580	5.7%	\$6.00
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	576	22,458	2.6%	\$6.20
Public Administration	377	6,050	6.2%	\$9.22
Financial Activities	363	4,346	8.4%	\$9.92
Other Services	363	2,666	13.6%	\$5.58
Education & Health Services	326	25,159	1.3%	\$9.35
Manufacturing	232	10,831	2.1%	\$17.93
Professional & Business Services	170	8,418	2.0%	\$8.82
Construction	119	11,001	1.1%	\$9.00
Natural Resources & Mining	56	2,275	2.5%	\$9.50
Information	22	1,529	1.4%	NA
Total, All Industry Groups <sup>(1)</sup>	3,658	113,409	3.2%	\$8.01

\* 2nd Quarter 2005 - Industry Data

(1) Due to unclassified data, column may not add to total.

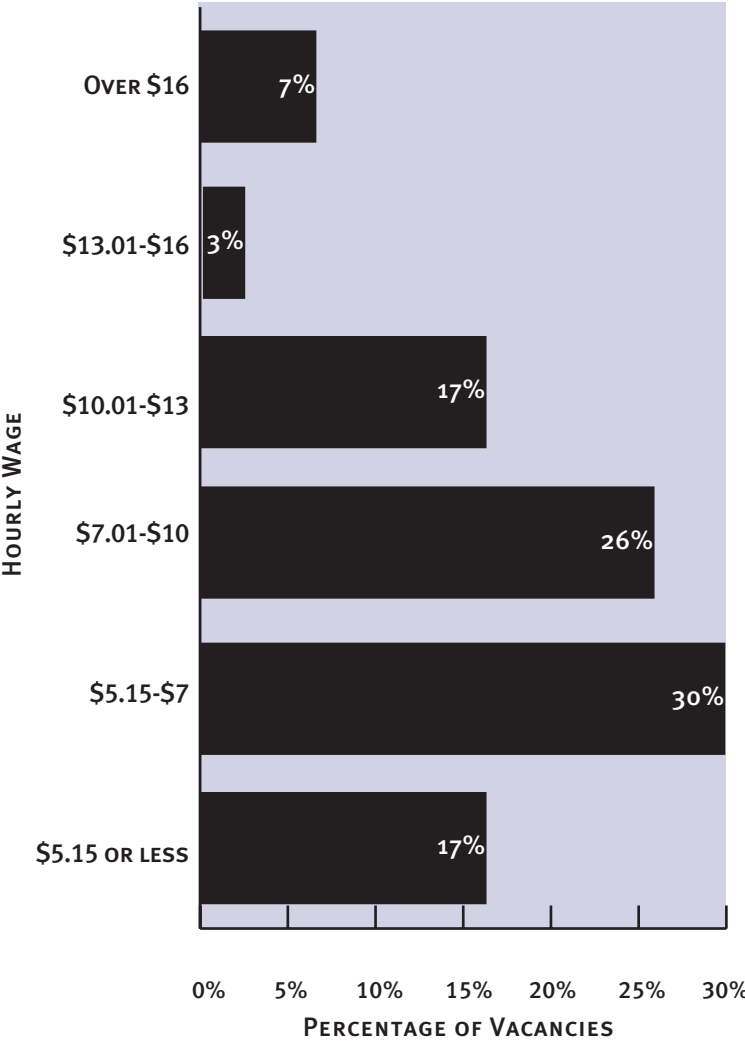




OCCUPATIONAL GROUP	NUMBER OF VACANCIES	EMPLOYMENT IN OCCUPATION	PERCENT REQUIRING AT LEAST SOME WORK EXPERIENCE	PERCENT REQUIRING MORE THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	MEDIAN HOURLY WAGE	MEDIAN NUMBER OF DAYS POSITION WAS VACANT	2ND QUARTER VACANCY RATE 2005 OVERALL*	2ND QUARTER VACANCY RATE 2005 PRIVATE SECTOR	2ND QUARTER VACANCY RATE 2004 PRIVATE SECTOR
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	49	1,850	64.6%	100.0%	\$28.75	60	2.64%	2.47%	0.80%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media Occupations	6	780	100.0%	100.0%	NA	0	0.71%	0.71%	0.00%
Building and Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance Occupations	462	3,410	20.7%	0.3%	\$7.50	14	13.55%	4.29%	0.38%
Business & Financial Operations Occupations	122	2,870	27.1%	8.2%	\$14.00	7	4.24%	4.24%	2.90%
Community and Social Services Occupations	1	1,150	100.0%	100.0%	\$12.60	21	0.04%	0.04%	0.00%
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	4	720	100.0%	100.0%	\$15.00	60	0.56%	0.56%	0.95%
Construction and Extraction Occupations	145	8,510	85.5%	13.8%	\$11.50	60	1.70%	1.70%	3.04%
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	65	6,240	0.1%	100.0%	\$13.70	30	1.04%	0.00%	0.00%
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	0	330	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.00%	0.00%	0.91%
Food Preparation & Serving-Related Occupations	721	10,550	37.1%	7.4%	\$6.00	10	6.83%	6.81%	1.58%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations	191	6,420	76.6%	66.0%	\$11.75	60	2.98%	2.52%	2.27%
Healthcare Support Occupations	41	2,550	80.0%	NA	\$6.75	0	1.62%	1.62%	7.13%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair Occupations	275	5,140	100.0%	30.9%	\$12.00	30	5.35%	4.56%	0.39%
Legal Occupations	0	380	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	2	1,060	100.0%	NA	NA	0	0.19%	0.19%	0.00%
Management Occupations	154	4,510	100.0%	88.5%	\$17.07	14	3.41%	3.36%	1.57%
Non-Classifiable Occupations	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.00%	0.00%
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	165	16,970	82.4%	41.2%	\$7.00	22	0.97%	0.93%	2.23%
Personal Care and Service Occupations	327	4,470	21.8%	78.2%	\$5.43	21	7.31%	7.31%	18.08%
Production Occupations	85	7,010	16.6%	50.3%	\$11.93	26	1.21%	1.21%	0.68%
Protective Service Occupations	5	3,780	56.0%	NA	\$9.44	120	0.14%	0.00%	0.97%
Sales and Related Occupations	424	10,840	70.1%	61.2%	\$6.00	14	3.91%	3.91%	2.70%
Transportation & Material Moving Occupations	416	7,970	77.5%	10.1%	\$6.20	21	5.21%	5.06%	4.73%
Total	3,658	107,510	55.1%	33.88%	\$8.51	21	3.40%	2.95%	2.51%

TOP 10 JOB OPENINGS
Fast Food & Counter Workers (371 openings)
Janitors & Cleaners, Except Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners (350 openings)
Retail Salespersons (337 openings)
Hairdressers, Hairstylists & Cosmetologists (256 openings)
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer (238 openings)
Food Service Managers (141 openings)
Loan Officers (112 openings)
Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners (111 openings)
Customer Service Representatives (89 openings)
Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics (81 openings)

LAKE CHARLES REGIONAL MEDIAN HOURLY WAGE



\*Overall includes the private sector as well as federal, state, and local government entities in Louisiana. NOTE: Due to rounding, column may not add to total.